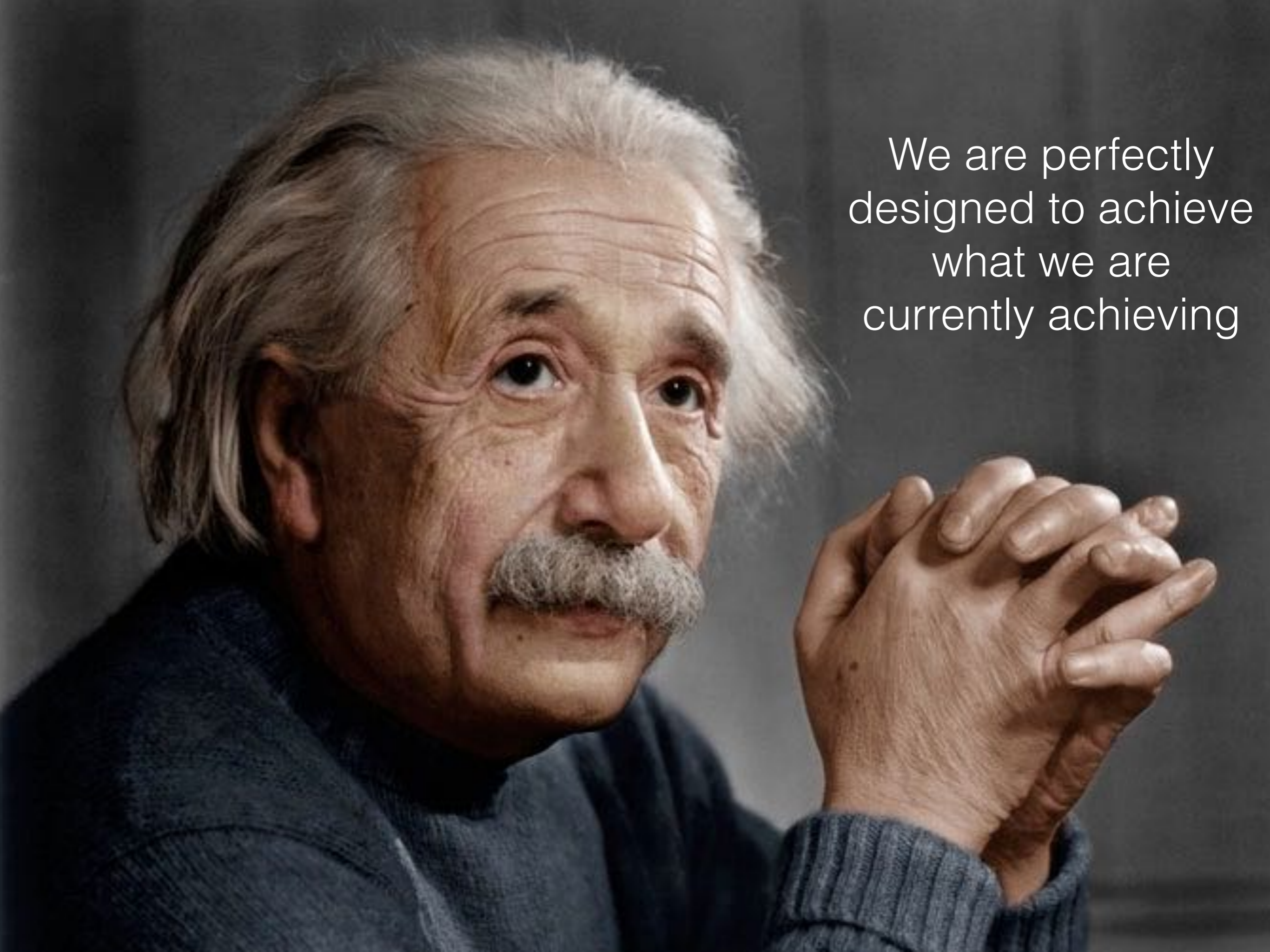


Cultivating a Sending Culture

Wired For Impact
HGC Exponential Pre-conference Equipping Lab

Culture eats strategy for breakfast, lunch and dinner.
~ Peter Drucker

If you want to make change, begin by making culture. Begin by organizing a tightly knit group. Begin by getting people in sync. Culture beats strategy. So much that culture is strategy.
~ Seth Godin



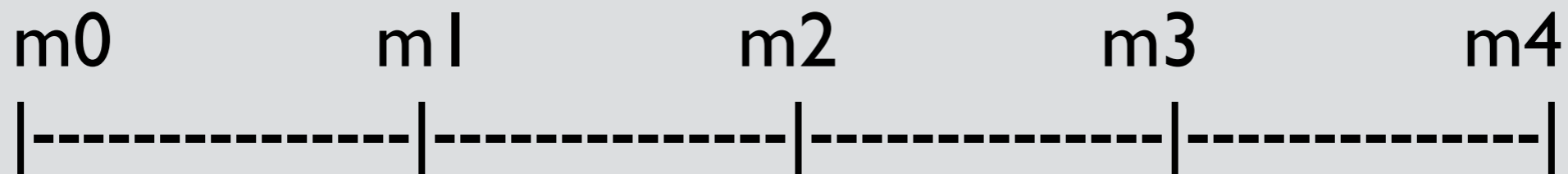
We are perfectly
designed to achieve
what we are
currently achieving

Experience Key Paradigm Shifts

Missionary nature of the Church

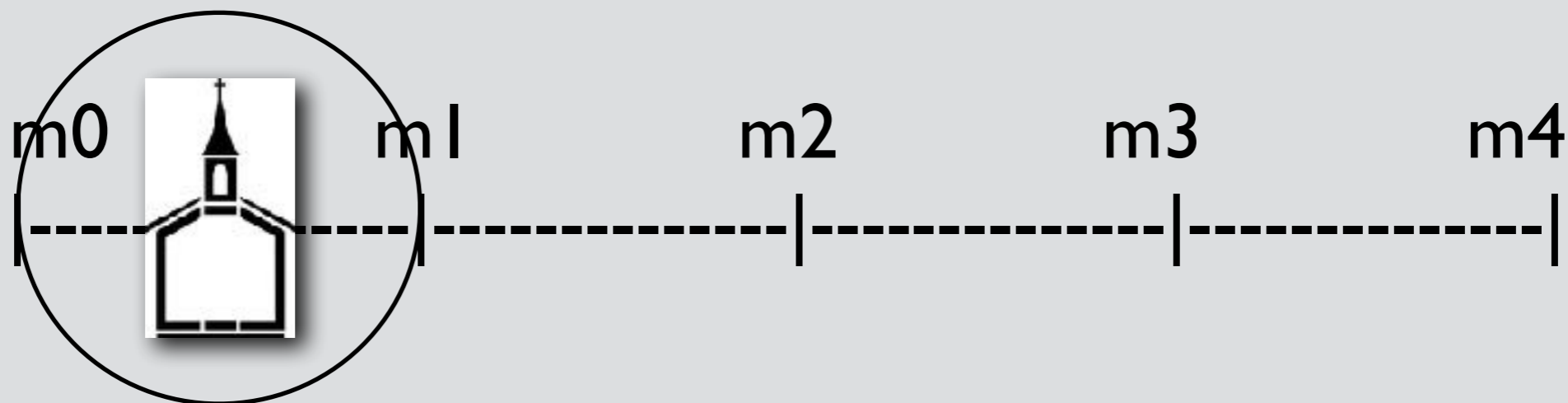
The Missionary Problem

To grasp the importance of the church as the missionary, consider the idea of *cultural distance*. This is a tool that we can use to discern just how far a person or a people group is from a meaningful engagement with the gospel. In order to determine this, we can see it on a scale like this:



Each number represents a cultural barrier: language, beliefs, traditions, family background, history, cultural experience, religious views, etc.

Remember it is we who are the “sent” people of God, which will sometimes mean we must go to where people are. If we fail to go to the people, then to encounter the gospel meaningfully they must *come* to us. This is the inbuilt assumption of the attractional (vendor) church; and it requires that the nonbeliever do the cross-cultural work to find Jesus, and not us! And make no mistake, for many people coming to a church service involves some serious cross-cultural work. When we ask them to come to us we are in essence asking them to be the missionaries!



Key Paradigm Shifts

Missionary nature of the Church

Participation in the *Missio Dei*

Luke may be suggesting a radically different location for being the church when the Spirit is breaking our boundaries. What if one of the most important locations for the church isn't so much being centered *in here* as being located *out there*? What if an element of what God is saying to us in this passage is that the nature, meaning, role, and function of the church will be rediscovered only to the extent we learn to discern what God is up to in the interactions with people in public space and homes of our towns and village?

~ Alan Roxburgh, commenting on Luke 10:1-12

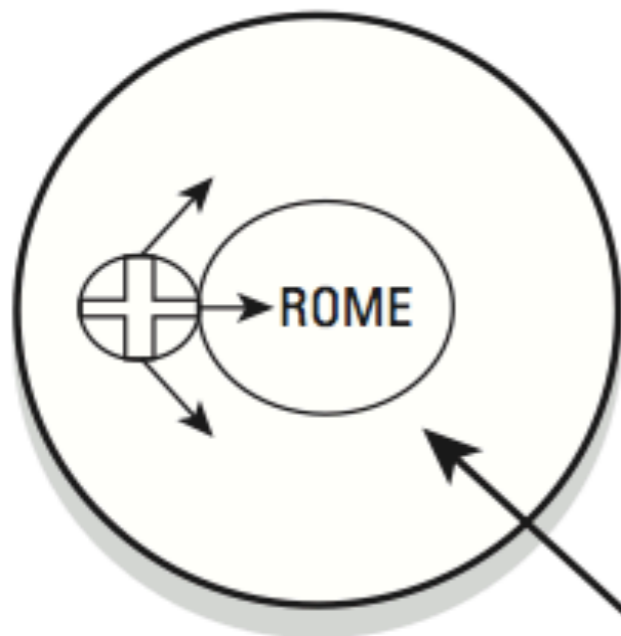
Key Paradigm Shifts

Missionary nature of the Church

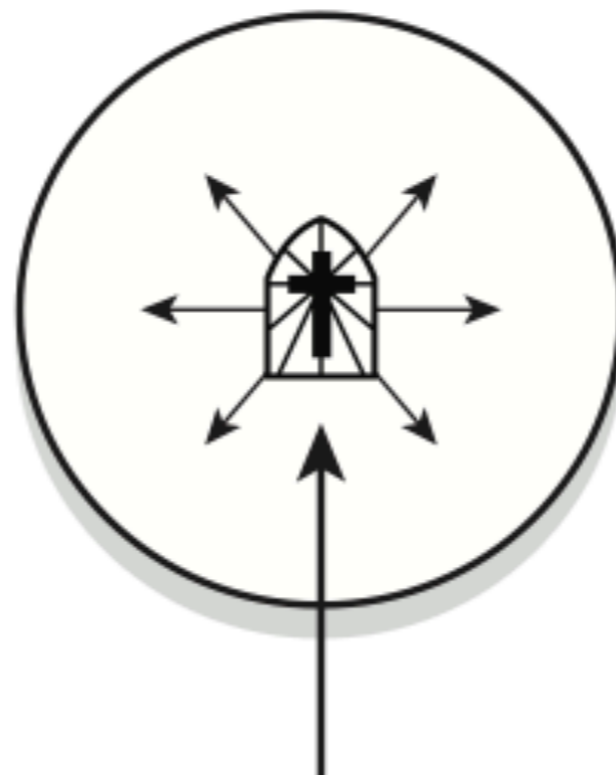
Participation in the *Missio Dei*

Post-Christendom Cultural Shift

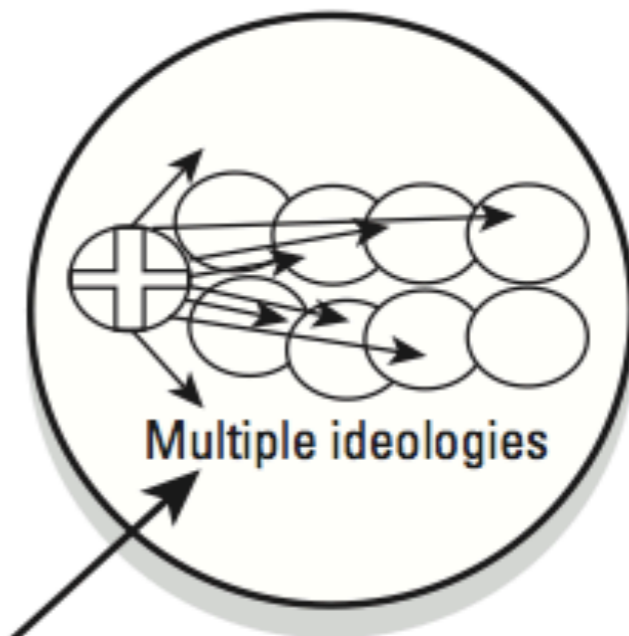
AD 30
Pre-Christendom



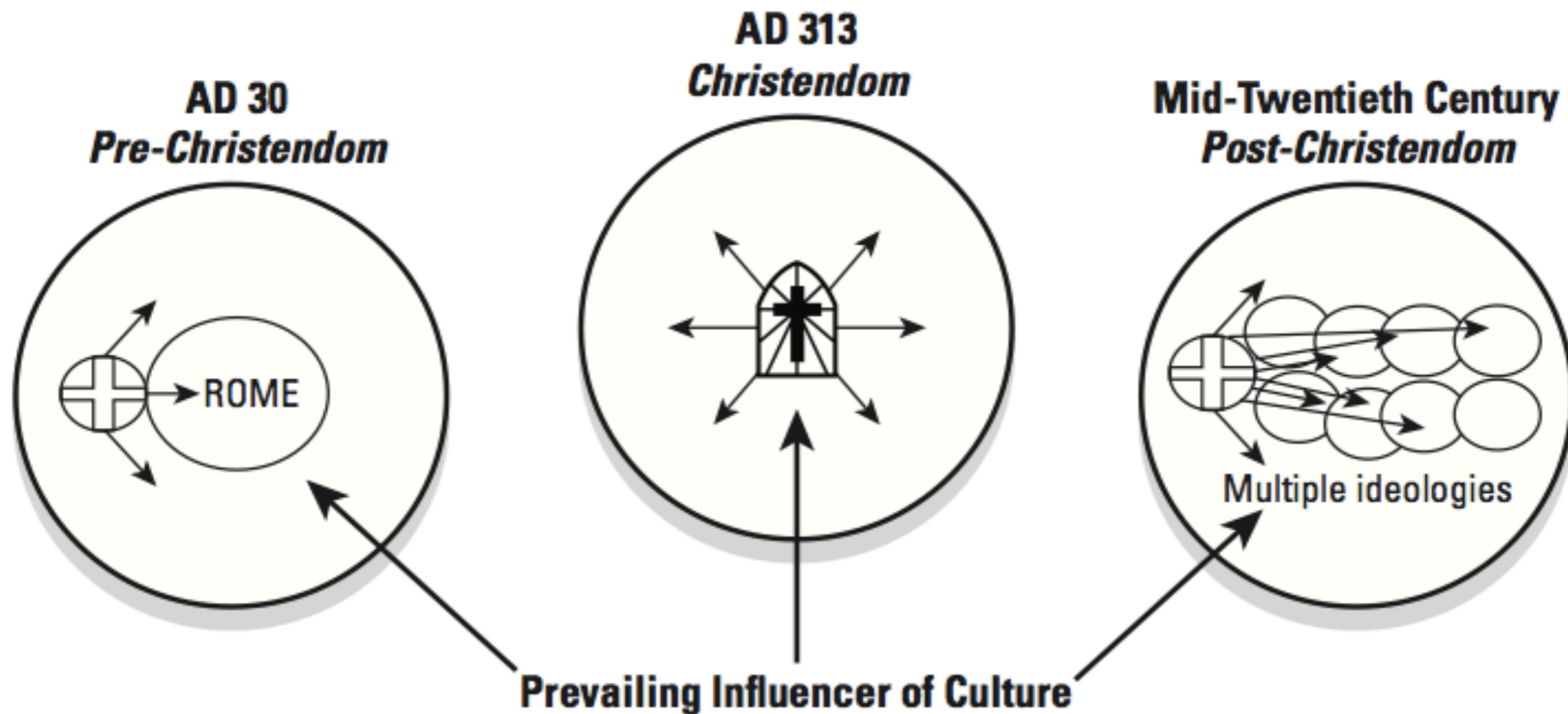
AD 313
Christendom



Mid-Twentieth Century
Post-Christendom



Prevailing Influencer of Culture



What was largely an illegal, underground, subversive, Jesus people-movement was now given money, status, power, and legitimacy. It fundamentally changed our missiology and our ecclesiology.

The myth of a Christian culture continues to set the mind of the Western church at ease. This myth assumes that the West is, or once was, a Christian culture. If the culture is Christian, there is no need to analyze its assumptions or develop a counter-cultural instinct.

*~ Michael Goheen from *Introducing Christian Mission Today**

Key Paradigm Shifts

Missionary nature of the Church

Participation in the Missio Dei

Post-Christendom Cultural Shift

Rethinking Vocation

The idea of rethinking vocation must start with considering this sacred/secular divide, or what some people refer to as the problem of dualism. Dualism, simply put, is wrongly dividing something that should not be divided.

The Greco-Roman thought was that the world is divided into two competing domains: the sacred (spiritual) and the secular (material).

Where dualism happens often, and actually becomes harmful to our understanding of ministry, is in the way we think of vocation.

The problem of work dualism goes back to the 4th century when Augustine compartmentalized the way people lived when he spoke of the contemplative life and the active life. For Augustine, the contemplative life was given to sacred things and was seen as a higher calling, while the active life was given to secular things and regarded as a lower calling. This kind of thinking helped to create a distorted view of work that continues today.

“Full-time ministry”

Believers participate in Christ's priesthood not within the walls of the Church but in the daily business of the world.
~ Lesslie Newbigin

We must activate ALL the people of God!

Create an APEST Culture

with an emphasis on the A

Apostle – sent ones / pioneering / extend the gospel

Prophet – bring correction & challenge

Evangelist – recruiter to the cause

Shepherd – nurturer & protector / caregiver

Teacher – understand & explain

Develop New Scorecards

Measuring is fabulous. Unless we are busy measuring what is easy to measure as opposed to what is important.

~ Seth Godin

We need to both count (*qualitative*)
and measure (*quantitative*).

Ask Culture Shaping Questions

- *What stories are we telling?*
- *What are we celebrating?*
- *How are our heroes?*

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